

News

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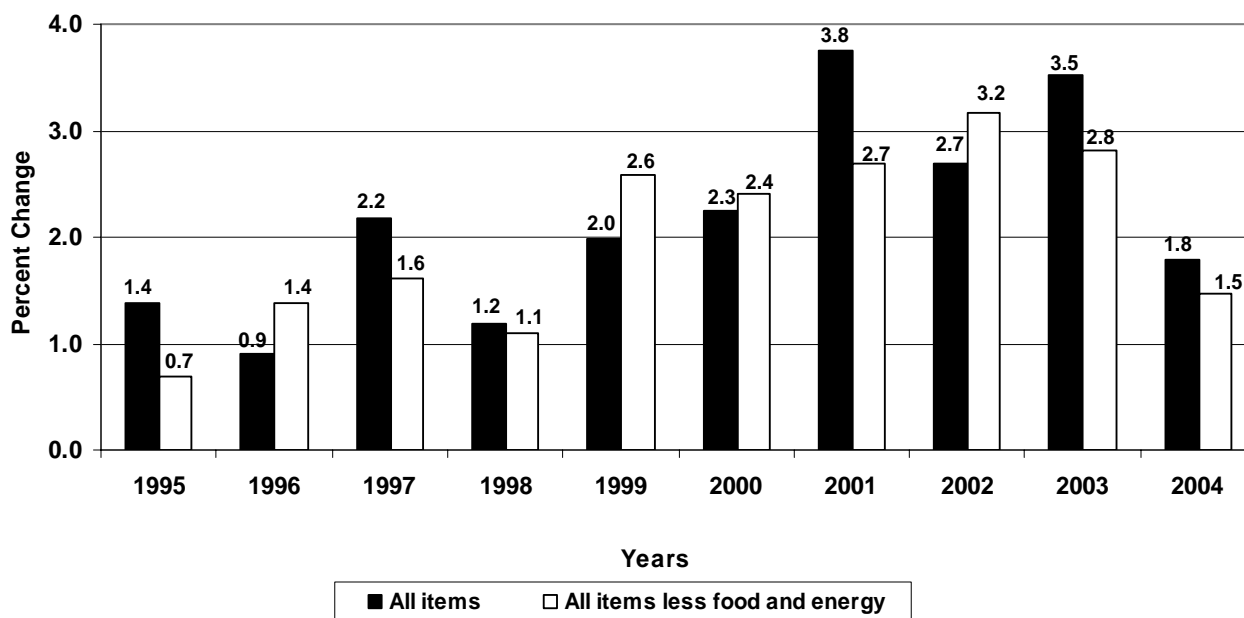
FOR RELEASE:

Friday, February 20, 2004

LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES ADVANCE 0.8 PERCENT IN JANUARY 2004

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that average consumer prices in the greater Los Angeles area rose 0.8 percent from December to January. Acting Regional Commissioner Nancy Treadwell said price increases for transportation and housing dominated the overall increase. During the past 12 months, the all items index rose 1.8 percent, while the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.5 percent. Local area data are not seasonally adjusted.

**The Greater Los Angeles Area, CPI-U Annual
Percent Change January 1995 to January 2004**



Transportation prices climbed 2.0 percent for the month, following three consecutive months of declining prices. Increases in state and local registration, license, and motor vehicle fees had an influence on the transportation index in January. Transportation prices were also affected by higher gasoline prices, up 3.1 percent over the month.

The housing index in the Los Angeles area increased 0.7 percent for the month and was 1.5 percent higher than in January 2003. The housing sub-category called shelter rose 0.4 percent since December. Household fuels and utilities increased 3.1 percent for the month. The third sub-category, household furnishings and operations, advanced 1.5 percent for the same period. On an annual basis, shelter rose 3.1 percent, while fuels and utilities and household furnishings and operations declined 6.0 and 4.1 percent, respectively.

Apparel prices increased 1.2 percent in January, following four months of consecutive price reductions. Since January 2003, overall apparel prices have decreased 3.3 percent.

Average recreation prices in the greater Los Angeles area advanced 0.5 percent for the month. Since January 2003, the recreation index rose 2.5 percent.

Medical care prices increased 0.4 percent from December to January. Compared to a year ago, medical care prices were up 4.0 percent.

The education and communication index advanced 0.3 percent in January and for the past 12 months have shown a 3.7 percent gain.

Other goods and services prices edged up 0.2 percent for the month, while decreasing 0.1 percent since January 2003.

Food and beverages prices inched down 0.1 percent for the month, the only major expenditure category to post a decline. In January, grocery prices, measured as food at home, fell 0.6 percent, while prices for food away from home advanced 0.4 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages jumped 1.4 percent for the same period. Overall food and beverages prices measured 4.2 percent higher than 12 months ago.

In January, the All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, (CPI-U), in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, measured 188.5 on the 1982-84=100 reference base. This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$188.50 in January 2004.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County¹, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003
Expenditure category						
All items	187.1	187.0	188.5	1.8	0.7	0.8
All items (1967=100)	552.7	552.6	556.9	-	-	-
Food and beverages	193.3	194.7	194.6	4.2	0.7	-0.1
Food	191.7	193.2	192.9	4.4	0.6	-0.2
Food at home	202.4	205.0	203.8	5.1	0.7	-0.6
Food away from home	176.6	176.6	177.3	3.3	0.4	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	203.8	204.4	207.3	0.6	1.7	1.4
Housing	193.5	194.5	195.9	1.5	1.2	0.7
Shelter	213.9	215.2	216.1	3.1	1.0	0.4
Rent of primary residence ²	211.8	212.7	213.9	5.7	1.0	0.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{2 3}	225.0	225.7	226.5	3.7	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities	175.2	176.3	181.8	-6.0	3.8	3.1
Fuels	171.4	172.7	180.2	-8.1	5.1	4.3
Gas (piped) and electricity ²	171.7	172.9	180.5	-8.3	5.1	4.4
Electricity ²	193.0	193.0	190.2	-17.8	-1.5	-1.5
Utility natural gas service ²	158.1	162.1	185.0	14.8	17.0	14.1
Household furnishings and operations	121.4	121.0	122.8	-4.1	1.2	1.5
Apparel	104.2	99.1	100.3	-3.3	-3.7	1.2
Transportation	156.3	154.8	157.9	0.7	1.0	2.0
Private transportation	150.9	149.4	152.7	1.0	1.2	2.2
Motor fuel	135.1	132.0	136.0	6.8	0.7	3.0
Gasoline (all types)	132.4	129.2	133.2	6.8	0.6	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	131.3	127.8	131.7	7.1	0.3	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	126.7	124.6	128.3	6.4	1.3	3.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	130.4	127.6	131.8	6.0	1.1	3.3
Medical care	292.9	295.3	296.6	4.0	1.3	0.4
Recreation ⁶	111.8	111.8	112.4	2.5	0.5	0.5
Education and communication ⁶	109.3	109.1	109.4	3.7	0.1	0.3
Other goods and services	299.2	297.5	298.0	-0.1	-0.4	0.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County¹, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003
Commodity and service group						
All items	187.1	187.0	188.5	1.8	0.7	0.8
Commodities	151.0	150.1	151.2	0.1	0.1	0.7
Commodities less food and beverages	126.4	124.5	126.0	-2.6	-0.3	1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	141.2	137.9	139.8	0.1	-1.0	1.4
Durables	109.5	109.1	110.2	-6.0	0.6	1.0
Services	218.2	218.9	220.7	2.7	1.1	0.8
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	181.9	181.8	183.2	1.6	0.7	0.8
All items less shelter	175.9	175.2	177.0	1.0	0.6	1.0
Commodities less food	130.0	128.1	129.7	-2.5	-0.2	1.2
Nondurables	168.3	167.2	168.2	2.2	-0.1	0.6
Nondurables less food	146.5	143.4	145.3	0.1	-0.8	1.3
Services less rent of shelter ³	231.8	231.6	234.9	2.3	1.3	1.4
Services less medical care services	212.0	212.7	214.4	2.7	1.1	0.8
Energy	148.3	146.8	152.0	-0.4	2.5	3.5
All items less energy	191.6	191.6	192.8	1.9	0.6	0.6
All items less food and energy	192.1	191.9	193.3	1.5	0.6	0.7

¹ Includes - Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties.

² This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.